

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes

July 5, 2016

Members Present: Stacey Stearns, Terry Wollen, Ed Hall, Nancy Rawn, Jennifer Kaufman (staff)

Guest: Chris Kueffner

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05
2. The minutes for the June 7th meeting were reviewed. Two corrections were noted re: attendees and the minutes will be resubmitted. Ed Hall motioned they be accepted with changes and Terry seconded.
3. New Business:
Jennifer reviewed the Proposed Multi-family housing zoning regulations and showed the map. She asked the members of the Agricultural Committee to read the proposed regulations (sent by email previously) and be prepared to comment at the August meeting. She emphasized that it was important to comment before the public hearing. Some discussion followed. Jennifer commented that the committee focus should be on how the regulations help create neighborhoods and that we might focus on buffer zones between neighborhoods and agriculture land. She said to send comments to Planning and Zoning through her.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Farm to School – Stacey shared that she had sent a letter to the Superintendent of Schools stating the committee's support for Farm to School initiative spearheaded by Jiff Martin. She got a positive response to this letter.
 - b. Farm to School and Week long showcase at Dog Lane Café- Jennifer has sent out an email to all the local farmers asking what they can provide for these events and to respond by July 18th.
 - c. Soil Health – Conservation Plan Initiatives- Jennifer shared that NRCS is working on getting plans for all the conservation land in town. The NRCS is also providing funds for Gravel Bank restoration that may benefit some farmers/land owners in town.
 - d. Meeting with Windham Chamber of Commerce- Jennifer and Stacey shared that the meeting went well. That they shared with them all the current projects underway and shared the PDF for the brochure.
 - e. Celebrate Mansfield Planning- Jennifer showed last year's tri-fold and good suggestions were made on how to improve it and get some audience participations such as:
 1. User friendly map showing all the farms
 2. Larger photos
 3. A larger list of farms and then numbers corresponding on the map.
 4. A question: How far are you from a local farm?
 5. Using the newly purchased board which allows for repositioning using Velcro.

Nancy Rawn agreed to work with Jennifer to create the board for this event and for use at future events.

- f. Economic Development Commission: John McGrath is the EDC connection. He will schedule farm visits and will consider adding the questions we suggested.
- g. Cranberry Hill Event: Well attended. 5 Ag Committee members attended. Very informative. The next group event will be in mid to late October sponsored by the CT Farm Bureau at Westford Hill Distillery.
- h. Future Events: Jennifer will use a Google Survey to assess what topics folks might be interested in.

Public Comment: Chris thanked the committing for allowing him to sit in and participate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.